

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

- 1) (currently amended) A method for fusing a first vertebra to a second adjacent vertebra, the method comprising:
 - a) providing an implant, the implant comprising a body having first and second opposite surfaces, wherein each of the surfaces includes at least one protruding member for securing the body to an adjacent vertebra, each protruding member of the implant characterized by a member longitudinal axis, each member having a profile perpendicular to the member's longitudinal axis that includes a generally arcuate portion that encompasses more than one hundred and eighty degrees of curvature as measured from the center of curvature, and each of the surfaces and protruding members including a bioactive coating;
 - b) forming at least one keyway in the first vertebra corresponding to each of the at least one protruding members on the first surface, and at least one keyway in the second vertebra corresponding to each of the at least one protruding members on the second surface, wherein each keyway is characterized by a keyway longitudinal axis and has a profile perpendicular to the keyway's longitudinal axis including a generally

arcuate portion that encompasses more than one hundred and eighty degrees of curvature as measured from the center of curvature; and

- c) inserting the implant between the first vertebra and the second vertebra in a manner so that each protruding member slides into the corresponding keyway;

such that movement between the implant and the first vertebra along any perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the at least one keyway in the first vertebra is prevented. ~~fusion of the vertebrae is achieved without a bone graft.~~

- 2) (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the opposite surfaces of the implant includes a plurality of protruding members.

3-5) (cancelled).

- 6) (previously presented) A method for fusing a first vertebra to a second adjacent vertebra, the method comprising:

- a) providing an implant, the implant comprising a body having first and second opposite surfaces, wherein each of the opposite surfaces includes two protruding members for securing the body to an adjacent vertebra, each member being disposed about an axis of symmetry lying on the corresponding surface such that each member protrudes beyond the height of the corresponding surface along the axis of symmetry, and each of the surfaces and protruding members includes a bioactive coating;
- b) forming two keyways in the first vertebra corresponding to the two protruding members on the first opposite surface and two keyways in the

second vertebra corresponding to the two protruding members on the second opposite surface, the keyways shaped to securely receive the protruding members; and

- c) inserting the implant between the first vertebra and the second vertebra in a manner so that each protruding member slides into the corresponding keyway,

such that fusion of the vertebrae is achieved without a bone graft.